[17th May 1954

Notice of Strike in the Palar Mills.

* 972 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps to avert the strike of which notice has been given by the workers of the Palar Mills, on the management?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Labour Officer has instituted conciliation proceedings in respect of the dispute in the Palar Mills. A strike is illegal while the conciliation proceedings are still pending. So the Union has been advised to withdraw the notice of strike."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" இந்த கன்சிலியேஷன் (Conciliation) எப்போது ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது ? அது சம்பந்தமாக ரிப்போர்ட் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கு வந்துவிட்டதா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Conciliation talks are reported to have started on 24th April 1954 and the Labour Officer's report is awaited."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Sir, நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கிற காலத்தில் தொழிலாளர்கள் வேலைநிறுத்தம் செய்யக்கூடாது என்பதை நான் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆனால் அதேமாதிரி முதலாளிகள் பழிவாங்கப்பட்டு நீக்கப்பட்ட 7 தொழிலாளர்களையும் உடனே வேலைக்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். அதற்கு மந்திரி அவர்கள் நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொண்டாரா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" If the management has taken any action during the conciliation proceedings, the Government will look into the matter."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Sir, கன்சிலியேஷன் புரோசீடிங்ஸ் நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கிற காலத்தில் மேலும் ஒரு தொழிலாளி பழிவாங்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார். அவர் உண்ணாவிரதம் இருந்து வந்ததை மந்திரி அவர்கள் அறிவாரா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, it was before the conciliation proceedings started. On 5th April 1954 the Palar Mill Workers Labour Union sent a telegram to the Labour Officer stating that a worker P. A. Joseph was on hunger strike from 4th April 1954. The Labour Officer proceeded there and held an enquiry and then conciliation talks were started."

Police firing at Naduvattam.

* 973 *Q.*—SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB: Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state what action the Government propose to take on the report of Mr. Sathianathan on the recent police firing at Naduvattam?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The report is under examination by Government. Necessary action will be taken after examination of the report."

17th May 1954]

Sri K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to tell this House what the findings and recommendations of the enquiry officer are? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have already said that the report is under examination. As soon as it is finalised, I shall inform the House, Sir."

Sri KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" On a previous occasion, when this matter was considered by the House, that is, on the 29th March the Hon. the Minister for Finance said that he was awaiting a reply, I mean, a detailed report from the Collector of Malabar. May I know whether he has received that report and if so, what the contents of that report are and whether this enquiry officer has made any specific recommendations regarding the taking of adequate steps in the matter? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Subsequent to that, an enquiry has been made by a responsible officer and his report is under examination. As soon as the examination is over, whatever action is necessary will be taken. I shall also consider the necessity or advisability of placing a copy of that report on the table of the House."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that when this enquiry was made, there was a report in the papers that those who wanted to give evidence before the enquiry officer must send beforehand to the Collector their written statement? May I know from the Hon. Minister whether this procedure was adopted only to prevent people from giving evidence before the enquiry officer? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am not aware of the facts mentioned by the hon. Member. Anyhow, Government were interested in getting a complete picture of the entire incident. So there was no question of shirking or burking any evidence."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" It was on 28th April that this incident took place. This matter was brought to the notice of the Government on the floor of the House and a resolution has also come. After a long delay, an enquiry officer was appointed and he is said to have completed his enquiry. In view of the importance of the matter, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state why there should be such extraordinary delay in examining the report made by the enquiry officer and will the Hon. Minister expedite the examination of the matter? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" There is no extraordinary delay in the examination of the report. Various departments have to scrutinise the report and make their own recommendations. That is the only reason for the delay."